

In the Specification:

The following specification amendments are presented as replacement paragraphs to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version as set out in 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b). The changes are shown by strikethrough and/or double brackets for deleted matter and underlining for added matter.

Please amend paragraph number 19 as follows:

In the first exemplary embodiment of the invention, the first anvil 22 is supported by a pin 50 that is releasably associated with the first steering column member 16. The locking device 32 includes a releasing device 38 operable to separate the anvil 22 from the steering column member 16. The releasing device 38 includes a pyrotechnic charge 40. When the pyrotechnic charge ~~24~~ 40 is fired by the controller 48, the pin 50 is retracted from an interior aperture defined by the anvil 22.

Please amend paragraph number 21 as follows:

The locking device 32 of the apparatus 10 also includes a third surface 42 fixedly spaced from the first surface 34. The third surface 42 is movably positioned with respect to the second surface 36. The energy absorbing member 26 extends between the third surface 42 and the second surface 36 so that the energy absorbing member 26 is selectively compressible between the third surface 42 and the second surface 36, similar to the compressive cooperation between the first and second surfaces 34, 36. Frictional resistance to movement is generated when the energy absorbing member 26 is compressed between the third surface 42 and the second surface 36 after the pin 50 is released by the releasing device 38. The third surface 42 and the first surface 34 are spaced a first distance from one another such that the anvil 22 is wider than the first distance.